

Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children

MEETING MINUTES

November 6, 2014

*****APPROVED*****

Members Present:

Sgt. Mark Boody
Dr. Johanna Buzolits
Deborah Carley
Kristen Clark
Thomas Cottrell
Jerry Dorsey, IV
Kathy Hagenian
Dr. Angie Kennedy
Thomas Knapp
Mary Lovik
Hon. Cheryl Matthews
Phyllis Van Order
Dorie Vasquez-Nolan
Carol Hackett Garagiola, Chair

Members Absent:

Denise Busley

DHS Staff Present:

Kelcey McArthur
Danielle Marek

Guests Present

Rachel Webster

Welcome and Introductions

Chair C. Hackett Garagiola convened the fifth meeting of the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children, at the General Office Building, Conference Room B, 1st floor, 7015 Harris Drive, Dimondale, MI 48813 on November 6, 2014 at 9:00 am, welcoming and thanking members and DHS staff for their participation. Members and DHS staff introduced themselves.

Approval of Agenda

Motion: M. Lovik to approve the November 6, 2014 meeting agenda. Seconded by J. Dorsey, IV. Motion carried.

Approval of October 7, 2014 Meeting Minutes

T. Cottrell offered an amendment to the October 7, 2014 minutes, p.3, second full paragraph, to replace “president” with “colleague of a member.”

Motion: T. Cottrell to approve the October 7, 2014 meeting minutes as amended. Seconded by D. Vasquez-Nolan. Motion carried.

Administrative Matters

Members were advised that T. Knapp had arranged for the Executive Director of the National Children’s Alliance to be present for the December 9, 2014 meeting of the Task Force, to inform members about efforts across the country regarding best and promising multi-disciplinary team responses to child sexual abuse. The National Children’s Alliance will cover all costs related to this appearance and presentation. Members thanked T. Knapp for the generosity of the National Children’s Alliance and for his efforts to make this presentation possible.

Members were advised that D. Busley had arranged for the Executive Director of a public relations group working on child sexual abuse prevention efforts to be present for the January 15, 2015 meeting of the Task Force, to inform members about that work. D. Busley will cover all costs related to this appearance and presentation. Members expressed gratitude for the efforts of D. Busley, who was unable to be present for the November 6, 2014 meeting.

Members were informed that members P. Fitzgerald and K. Clark were resigning from the Task Force due to out-of-state re-locations for purposes of employment. K. Clark told members that she is willing to assist the Task Force in any way she can from her new out-of state location, and that she has all of her Task Force materials and contacts ready to provide to a new Task Force member appointed to the Task Force, if such an appointment is made. K. Clark was thanked for her service on the Task Force and for her willingness to continue assisting with Task Force work.

C. Hackett Garagiola advised members that she will work with the Governor’s Appointments office to determine whether appointments to these vacancies will be made, and to expedite the appointments process, if possible, given the timeline for completion of Task Force work by June 16, 2015. She asked members to provide names for consideration for these vacancies, which are for a school board representative and for individuals with expertise in education.

Members were informed that a phone conference call would be scheduled with some experts in child sexual abuse prevention identified by University of Michigan Law School Professor Frank Vandervort. Members will be informed about the date and time of the call as soon as arrangements are finalized. Members were invited to participate in the call for purposes of receiving information only. Members were advised that the phone call was not a meeting of the Task Force, and that no deliberations toward any Task Force decisions or recommendations would take

place during the call. Information heard during the call will be reported to all Task Force members during the next Task Force meeting.

Presentation about Behaviors and Attitudes of Perpetrators of Child Sexual Abuse

T. Cottrell provided to members an excellent educational session about the research and findings regarding behaviors and attitudes of perpetrators of child sexual abuse, assailant typologies, assailant motivational typologies, impact of child sexual abuse, preconditions of child sexual abuse, factors contributing to perpetration of child sexual abuse, how these issues impact the experience of survivors and the efficacy of interventions with survivors and perpetrators, and how these issues can inform and enhance prevention efforts. Members thanked T. Cottrell for the valuable presentation, and engaged in an in-depth discussion of the relevance of the information he presented to all aspects of the work of the Task Force.

Members discussed the value of including such information in training for DHS caseworkers, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, court personnel, and in community awareness and parent education programs. Members discussed the need for addressing such information in child sexual abuse prevention programming in schools. Members agreed that this aspect of primary prevention, i.e. preventing individuals from becoming perpetrators, warranted more intense focus. Members T. Cottrell, J. Dorsey IV, A. Kennedy, K. Hagenian, M. Boody, and P. Van Order volunteered to work with C. Hackett Garagiola on that issue.

Members discussed the value of supporting therapists who work with perpetrators, in order to learn how to change the behavior of perpetrators. Members discussed that most perpetrators who are incarcerated will return to their families and communities. Members discussed the need to identify and implement effective interventions for perpetrators. Members discussed sex offender treatment programs for juvenile offenders, the incidence of sexual abuse in juvenile facilities, and the incidence of sexual violence and sexual victimization history in adult prisoner populations.

Members were directed to the “List of Empirical Resources” that A. Kennedy had compiled and provided to members. A. Kennedy advised that the list includes a meta-analysis of multiple studies of factors contributing to perpetration of child sexual abuse.

Discussion of School Policies: Awareness and Response

Members discussed the requirements of MCL 722.632b(3), MCL 722.632b(3)(e), MCL 380.1505, and MCL 722.632b(3)(g) regarding the role of schools in child sexual abuse prevention and response. Members identified the need for on-going training for all school personnel on the requirements of the mandated reporter law, and the value of amending the School Code to require such on-going training. Members

discussed the value of including in programming for school personnel information such as that presented by T. Cottrell today to Task Force members, as well as information about the nature of disclosures of child sexual abuse, and the importance of schools serving as safe havens for children who disclose sexual abuse. K. Clark discussed opportunities for such training through professional development and new teacher training.

Members discussed the importance of including school personnel in policy and protocol development for local multi-disciplinary teams responding to child sexual abuse. Members also discussed the importance of internal school policies regarding internal school response to child sexual abuse, for purposes of promoting the safety and well-being of the disclosing child and the school community. Members discussed barriers to effective child sexual abuse prevention and response programming in schools. Members discussed the possibility of overcoming such barriers by demonstrating a correlation between effective child sexual abuse prevention and response in schools, and improved school outcomes.

With regard to prevention programming for students, members discussed the need for repetition and incorporation throughout the school curricula, and establishing a culture in schools in which children have a voice and feel that they have permission to speak.

Information Gathering Status and Updates

J. Buzolits reported on the progress of survey content and process. J. Buzolits has finalized the survey content, and is waiting for a few final confirmations from members who are serving as liaisons with various professional organizations for purposes of distributing the survey. Upon receipt of those confirmations, the on-line survey will be distributed via the professional organizations to individual practitioners, and the practitioners will be encouraged to respond to the survey within the timeframe to be established by the data workgroup. Several members serving as liaisons to these professional organizations reported enthusiasm and appreciation from those organizations about the opportunity for their members to participate in the survey.

Mandated Reporter Law

Members agreed to devote a portion of the December 9, 2014 meeting to discussion of the provisions of Michigan's mandated reporter law.

Lunch

Members participated in a lunch at their own expense, using no public funds.

Public Comment

Rachel Webster thanked the Task Force for its work and volunteered to assist the Task Force in accomplishing its responsibilities.

Thank you and next meeting

C. Hackett Garagiola thanked members for the thoughtful discussion that took place during the meeting. The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for:

Tuesday, December 9, 2014

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

General Office Building

Conference Room B – 1st Floor

7015 Harris Drive

Dimondale, MI 48813

Adjournment

Motion: j. Dorsey, IV to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by T. Cottrell.

Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Hackett Garagiola